

**FINAL REPORT DARPA CONTRACT # DAA HOI-98-P-R010
JUNE 16, 1998**

ADVANCED CERAMETRICS, INC

This report covers the period between the completion of SBIR Phase I contract # DAA-HOI-97-C-R114 and Phase II SBIR contract # DAA-HOI-98-C-R107. This effort was expended in response to contract # DAA-HOI-98-P-R010. The general purpose of this work was to begin preparation for the above Phase II SBIR ahead of actual award so that the two year Phase II period could be more effectively completed. Advanced Cerametrics, Inc (ACI) determined that certain improvements were necessary to be made to its ceramic fiber spinning equipment in order to make the types and quantities of PZT fiber required for the Phase II effort. Several pieces of equipment were ordered and installed on the spinning machine. Several spinning trials were run and samples were sent to ACI's subcontractors.

ACI subcontractor, Mide Technology Corp. produced sample PZT fiber composites using interdigitized electrodes. An average of 550 micro-strain was achieved using 3,000 volts. This equates to a 0.005" elongation of a 6" long strip. This value will be used as a baseline for the Phase II work. Future efforts will be aimed at increasing the force while reducing the voltage. Fiber straightness and proximity of the electrode are key.

ACI's subcontractor, Composite Systems Design (CSDI), worked on its newly designed and constructed PZT fiber "paper making" equipment. No experiments were run. A summary report from CSDI is enclosed for reference.

The Phase II SBIR, as above, was negotiated and signed at the end of May. The work begun in this bridge contract will continue seamlessly into the Phase II and, as intended, this bridge has sped the development work so that pre-commercial devices should be available before the conclusion of the Phase II.

ACI is grateful for the support provided through this bridge grant and, hopefully, the results so far and those that are anticipated will be justification of the cost.

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PROGRESS REPORT 5/31/98
COMPOSITE SYSTEMS DESIGN
Peter Ogle

Work has been focused on the demonstration of the paper making process to make a directional paper from the piezoelectric fiber provided by ACI. For this initial demonstration, the paper making will be performed by drawing paper slurry through a screen. The slurry is a mixture of a small amount of fiber and binder in a large amount of water. A directional orientation of the fiber in the paper will be achieved through a transitional motion of the slurry as it passes through the screen. The test should help define the best composition of the slurry, the degree of transitional motion of the slurry relative to the screen necessary to achieve the desired directionality and the preferred fiber length. Also of importance will be the determination of the screen mesh size and procedures for drying and removing the paper from the screen. This test cell should be able to make a strip of paper that is two inches wide in a ring that is ten inches in diameter. The ring shape was selected to facilitate the generation of the relative motion between the slurry and the screen. The size was selected to enable cutting of actuator specimens of approximately 1" x 4" with a relatively uniform fiber direction (circumferential).

During the past month, the paper making demonstration cell was designed and the necessary equipment was procured. All elements of the cell have arrived with the exception of the filter screen. The screen is expected in the first week of June. Assembly of the equipment is nearly complete. The vacuum pump provided by ACI will be used draw the slurry through the screen. Also, a small amount of polyvinyl alcohol has been purchased to be used as the binder for the slurry.

Planned activities for period 6/1-6/30/98

Assembly of the demonstration test cell should be completed and initial testing should be underway. Plans are to use chopped fiberglass for initial evaluation of the process. Subsequent test will use the 1.5 oz. of unsintered 20 micron fiber samples that ACI has provided. The cell will use approximately one ounce of fiber for each trial so an additional 5 oz will be needed in June and at least 10m oz in July. Also needed in July will be at least 5 oz of sintered fiber.

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

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